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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 720
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to urge Congress to vote against any proposal to grant permanent normal trade relations status to the People's Republic of China and to urge the President and Congress to oppose China's membership in the World Trade Organization.

WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China has taken steps to become a member of the World Trade Organization, a position that would give China recognition and status as an equal, legitimate partner with other countries in world trade; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, China has entered into four bilateral trade agreements with the United States in which China has agreed to give U.S. businesses better access to its markets and not to discriminate against U. S. products; and

WHEREAS, China has violated the provisions of each of these agreements including the 1992 Memoranda of Understanding on Prison Labor and Market Access, the 1994 Bilateral Agreement on Textiles, and the 1996 Bilateral Agreement on Intellectual Property Rights; and

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WHEREAS, China's record on human rights is poor; those who attempt to engage in legitimate political opposition are often imprisoned or harassed, and those holding political views that differ from those of the regime or profess religious views are oppressed; and

WHEREAS, China ignores the rights of its workers and imprisons those who seek to improve labor conditions in the country; and

WHEREAS, China's enormous military establishment and its injudicious use of threats and provocation make it a threat in the eyes of its neighbors; and

WHEREAS, advocates of China's membership in the World Trade Organization promote the view that China's vast potential market would be further opened to trade; the more likely scenario is that China's exports of cheap textiles, pirated technology and other products produced by grossly underpaid labor will flood our markets at the expense of American wages, jobs and trade balance; and

WHEREAS, the record of the People's Republic of China in human rights and in failing to live up to trade agreements should not be validated by supporting its admission into the World Trade Organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly respectfully requests that Congress vote against any proposal to grant permanent normal trade relations status to the The People's Republic of China, which is a precursor to the granting of World Trade Organization membership, and take all other actions within their power to deny membership in the World Trade Organization to the People's Republic of China.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States; to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States; and to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.

